

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00041 030441Z

22

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 022220Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8507

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0041

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EC XM

SUBJECT: AN UPDATE ON SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTERING RELATIONS WITH
ECUADOR

REF: QUITO 8858, QUITO 9374

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY, I MADE THREE SUGGESTIONS IN
QUITO 8858 FOR ACTIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO BETTER RELA-
TIONS WITH ECUADOR.

A. REAFFIRM AT A HIGH LEVEL OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN
AMENDMENT OF THE TRA;

B. EXTEND THE TWO EXISTING AID LOANS; AND

C. CONTINUE TO UTILIZE WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WE CAN TO SHOW OUR
INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH THE EUCOADREAN NAVY, SPECIFICALLY
BY EARMARKING AN LST NOW FOR POSSIBLE SALE LATER THIS YEAR.

2. THE LOANS HAVE NOW BEEN EXTENDED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO REAFFIRMATION OF THE EXECUTIVE'S INTEREST
IN AMENDING THE TRA, QUITO 9374 CONTAINS THE TEXT OF A
MESSAGE FROM THE ECUADOREAN -AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TO PRESIDENT FORD IN WHICH THE CHAMBER ASKED THE PRESIDENT
TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT. I SUGGEST
THAT AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO REAFFIRM OUR INTEREST IN THE
AMENDMENT OF THE TRA WOULD BE TO HAVE A RESPONSE GO EITHER
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FROM YOU OR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON ADDRESSED THROUGH THE

EMBASSY JOINTLY TO BOTH PRESIDENT GRANADA CENTENO AND VICE PRESIDENT MOSS. THE BARE BONES OF SUCH A TEXT COULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"DEAR MR. GRANADA CENTENO AND MR. MOSS:

"BEFORE RESPONDING TO YOUR TELEGRAM OF DECEMBER 22, 1975 TO PRESIDENT FORD, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FOUNDING IN EARLY 1975 OF THE ECUADOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MY BEST WISHES FOR ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS.

"THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TELEGRAM EXPRESSED THE CONCERN OF THE ECUADOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WITH RESPECT TO THE UNFAVORABLE EFFECT ON US-ECUADOREAN RELATIONS OF THE EXCLUSION OF ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA FROM THE BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES GRANTED UNDER THE 1976 TRADE ACT. EVEN PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE TRADE ACT, THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZED THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN YOUR MESSAGE.

"I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT AMENDATORY LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS THAT WOULD GIVE THE PRESIDENT DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO WAIVE THE GSP EXCLUSION PROVISION IN THE CASE OF THOSE OPEC MEMBER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ECUADOR, WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE 1973-74 OIL EMBARGO AGAINST THE UNITED STATES."

4. FINALLY, WE AND THE ECUADOREANS HAVE NOW JOINTLY DONE AS MUCH AS WE REASONABLY CAN WITHIN THE CONFINES OF OUR CURRENT JURIDICAL POSITIONS TO INSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO FISHING VESSEL SEIZURES THIS YEAR. WHETHER THAT WILL BE THE FACT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY EVENT, I SUGGEST THAT THE AUGURIES ARE SUFFICIENTLY GOOD FOR US PRIVATELY TO EARMARK AN LST FOR POSSIBLE SALE TO ECUADOR LATER THIS YEAR AFTER THE FISHING SEASON SHALL HAVE CONCLUDED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. THAT A REPLY GO TO THE ECUADOREAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LETTER OF DECEMBER 22 REAFFIRMING THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN AND INTENTION OF AMENDING THE TRA.

B. THAT THE US NAVY BE ASKED NOW TO EARMARK AN LST FOR
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LATER POSSIBLE SALE TO ECUADOR.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO00041
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760001-1150
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760190/aaaadbsu.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 QUITO 8858, 75 QUITO 9374
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AN UPDATE ON SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTERING RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR
TAGS: PFOR, EC, XM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006